

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for screening a candidate compound for ~~an antitumor or a drug to treat blood cancer~~, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing ~~animal blood cells or hematopoietic stem cells in which the FLT3/ITD gene has been introduced so as to express FLT3/ITD, wherein said cells proliferate cytokine independently showing cytokine independent proliferation due to expression of FLT3/ITD;~~

(b) contacting said cells with a test sample ~~said candidate compound~~ and culturing said cells in the absence of cytokines;

(c) detecting the proliferation of said cells; and

(d) selecting [[a]] ~~the~~ compound that inhibits the proliferation of said cells by inhibiting FLT3/ITD function.

2 – 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[5]] 1, wherein said blood cancer is acute myeloid leukemia or myelodysplasia syndrome.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said cytokine is IL-3.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim [[8]] 1, wherein said blood cells into which the FLT3/ITD gene is introduced so as to express FLT3/ITD are FDC-P1, 32D, or BaF cells.

10 – 11. (Canceled)